**GOVERNMENTOF ANDHRA PRADESH**

**A B S T R A C T**

Agriculture & Cooperation Department – Disciplinary Matters - Sri B.Srinivasa Reddy, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Yemmiganur, Kurnool District & Presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, O/o Assistant Director of Agriculture ®, Alur, Kurnool District - Allegations of selling the paddy Foundation seed at Rs.415/- instead of Rs.315/- per bag and Groundnut foundation seed secretly through DCMS & some Adarsha Rhytulu without distributing to eligible farmers etc., – Disciplinary action initiated under A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 – Imposed the Penalty of "Withholding of (3) Annual Grade Increments with cumulative effect" – Appeal submitted and admitted – Reduction of the Penalty to "Withholding of (1) Annual Grade Increment without cumulative effect" - Orders - Issued.

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**AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.Rt.No.718** **Dated: 28/10/2022**

**Read the following:**

1. Proceedings No.Vig.I(2)122/2012-1, dt.14.02.2021 of the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.
2. Appeal petition dt.15.06.2021 of Sri B.Sreenivasa Reddy, Mandal Agriculture Officer, O/o Assistant Director of Agriculture ®, Alur, Kurnool District, received through Endt.No.142, dt.15.06.2021 of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture .
3. Govt. Memo No. AGC01-AGRI/152/2019, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.12.08.2021.
4. From the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, Letter No.Vig.I (2) 159/2012, dt.15.02.2022.

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**O R D E R:**

In the reference 1st read above, the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur has issued Orders imposing the Penalty of "Withholding of (3) Annual Grade Increments with cumulative effect" against Sri B.Srinivasa Reddy, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Yemmiganur, Kurnool District, under A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991, with regard to selling the paddy Foundation seed at Rs.415/- instead of Rs. 315/- per bag and Groundnut foundation seed secretly through DCMS & some Adarsha Rhytulu without distributing to eligible farmers etc.

2. In the reference 2nd read above, Sri B.Srinivasa Reddy, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Yemmiganur, Kurnool District, has submitted an Appeal Petition to the Government, stating that, the concerned farmers have given statement that no adverse transactions have been made by the Mandal Agriculture Officer, Yemmiganur, regarding selling of seeds at higher rates and also signatures are duplicate. Further, the Branch Manager, the Kurnool District Co-op. Marketing Society Limited, Yemmiganur, who is on In-charge, namely Sri T.Raghavendra also submitted his statement that as per the directions fixed by the Government, the seeds sold to farmers only without heavy rates and secretly. Further the amount received in selling the seeds had been deposited to the Government from time to time without any lapses. Hence it clearly reveals that no adverse transactions had been made by him and only a wilful one initiated negative statements by the unknown persons and hence requested to set aside the above punishment.

3. In the reference 3rd read above, the Government have forwarded a copy of the Appeal Petition of Sri B. Srinivasa Reddy, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Yemmiganur to the Commissioner of Agriculture, with a request to examine the said Appeal Petition and furnish his remarks to Government, for further action in the matter.

4. In the reference 4th read above, the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, has submitted his remarks on the Appeal Petition of the individual stating that he has agreed with the findings of the Enquiry Officer as per which the Charges framed in respect of Sri B. Srinivasa Reddy, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Yemmiganur are held proved.

**(P.T.O)**

5. The Government have admitted the above Appeal Petition submitted by Sri B. Srinivasa Reddy, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Yemmiganur, Kurnool District and after careful examination of the material papers made available, it is observed that, no seed was distributed at higher rates as per the written statements submitted by the farmers at the time of inquiry. The complaint made by the farmers with duplicate signatures clearly shows that it is an anonymous petition filed by some unknown persons.

6. Further, the Branch Manager, District Cooperative Marketing Society, Kurnool has submitted in his statement that the seed was sold as per the rates fixed by the Government only. In the instant case the minor lapse occurred in verifying the pending registers only and lack of understanding between Assistant Director of Agriculture (R) & Mandal Agriculture Officer and hence it is decided to reduce the Penalty of "Withholding of (3) Annual Grade Increments with cumulative effect" to that of "Withholding of (1) Annual Grade Increment without cumulative effect" against him.

6. Accordingly, the Government, hereby, order for reduction of the Penalty of "Withholding of (3) Annual Grade Increments with cumulative effect" in respect of Sri B. Srinivasa Reddy, formerly Mandal Agriculture Officer, Yemmiganur and presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, O/o Assistant Director of Agriculture ®, Alur, Kurnool District, to that of "Withholding of (1) Annual Grade Increment without cumulative effect", under A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991.

7. The Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur shall take further action, accordingly.

**(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)**

**POONAM MALAKONDAIAH**
**CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &**
**SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

**To:**
The Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.
**Copy to:**
The Vigilance Commissioner, A.P.V.C., 5th Block,
A.P. Secretariat Buildings, Velagapudi.
The Prl. Accountant General, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, A.P., Vijayawada.
The District Treasury Officer, Kurnool.
The Joint Director of Agriculture, Kurnool.
The OSD to Minister for Agriculture, A.P.
The OSD to A.P.Vigilance Commissioner, A.P.V.C., 5th Block, 1st Floor,
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
Sf/Sc

**// FORWARDED BY ORDER//**

**SECTION OFFICER**